

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs to sponsor seven special events during January 2019

(DOVER, Del.–Dec. 19, 2018)–During the month of January 2019, the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs will be sponsoring seven special programs at the [museums of the State of Delaware](#). A full schedule is included below. All programs are free and open to the public.



The Original Dixieland Jass Band made the first commercially released jazz recording in 1917 for the Victor Talking Machine Company. Early jazz will be explored at the Johnson Victrola Museum on Jan. 5, 2019.

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs special events, January 2019

Monday, Dec. 31, 2018

New Year's Eve. The following museum of the State of Delaware will be open: [The Old State House](#), open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. The [John Dickinson Plantation](#), [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), [New Castle Court House Museum](#) and the [Zwaanendael Museum](#) will be closed. 302-744-5054.

Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019

New Year's Day. All museums of the State of Delaware (the [John Dickinson Plantation](#) the [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), the

[New Castle Court House Museum](#), [The Old State House](#) and the [Zwaanendael Museum](#)) will be closed. 302-744-5054.

Saturday, Jan. 5, 2019

“Ringing in the New Year With Jazz.” Guided tours explore the sound of classic jazz and the role that the Victor Talking Machine Company played in bringing the New Orleans sound to music lovers across the globe, accompanied by 78-rpm recordings played on authentic Victor Talking Machines. [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), 375 S. New St., Dover. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3262.

Saturday, Jan. 5, 2019

“Divided Delaware.” In 1787, Delaware became the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. Afterwards, the state grew increasingly divided. This in-depth presentation will analyze three important moments where division prevented great social change from occurring in Delaware: the state’s effort to end slavery before the Civil War; the ratification of the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments; and Delaware’s chance to be the final state to ratify the 19th Amendment. [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Program at 1 p.m. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

Friday, Jan. 11, 2019

[Concert by Phyllis Chapell](#). □ World-jazz music. Presented in partnership with the [Delaware Friends of Folk](#) and the [First State Heritage Park](#). [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. 7:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

Saturday, Jan. 12, 2019

Lecture on the Avery’s Rest archaeological site. Program on Avery’s Rest, a 17th-century archaeological site near Rehoboth Beach presented by Dan Griffith of Griffith Archaeology and retired director of the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs. Part of [“Across the Ages to](#)

[the Edge of the Sea](#),” a lecture series exploring the history of the Lewes area from the 17th to the 20th centuries. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Program at 2 p.m. on the museum’s 2nd floor (entry via staircase; no elevator). Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Free admission but, due to space restrictions, reservations for the lecture are required by calling 302-645-1148 no later than Jan. 11, 2019.



A pair of scissors unearthed during archaeological excavations at the Avery’s Rest archaeological site. The site will be the subject of a lecture at the Zwaanendael Museum on Jan. 12, 2019.

Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2019

Delaware State Review Board for Historic Preservation meeting. Agenda TBA. The Delaware Room, [Delaware Public Archives](#), 121 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dover. 10 a.m.–Noon. 302-736-7417.

Monday, Jan. 21, 2019

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The following museums of the State of Delaware will be open: The [Johnson Victrola Museum](#) and [The Old State House](#), open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. The following museums will be closed: The [John Dickinson Plantation](#), the [New Castle Court House Museum](#) and the [Zwaanendael Museum](#)). 302-744-5054.

Monday, Jan. 21, 2019

“Courage and Freedom.” In commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, guided tours will focus on three compelling

stories of courageous Delawareans whose fight for freedom and equality began at The Old State House. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

Monday, Jan. 21, 2019

“The Struggle.” In commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, guided tours focus on African-American vocalists and Civil Rights activists Paul Robeson and Marian Anderson, accompanied by 78-rpm recordings of those artists played on authentic Victor Talking Machines. [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), 375 S. New St., Dover. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3262.

Exhibits and displays, January 2019

In addition to special programming, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs is sponsoring the following exhibits and displays. Admission is free and open to the public:

Ongoing

[“Delaware Railroads: Elegant Travel and Timely Transport.”](#)

Exhibit explores the history of rail travel and transport in the First State emphasizing the New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad (1832), the Delaware Railroad (1852), the Junction and Breakwater Railroad (1857) and the Queen Anne’s Railroad (1896). [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Nov. 1–March 31: Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. April 1–Oct. 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-645-1148.

Ongoing

[“Drawing America to Victory: The Persuasive Power of the Arts in World War I.”](#)

Online exhibit revolves around 27 World War I posters from the collections of the State of Delaware.

Ongoing

“Five Stories.” Display explores the varied lives of people who lived on the plantation including Dickinson family members, tenant farmers, tradesmen, free blacks, indentured

servants and enslaved individuals. [John Dickinson Plantation](#) Welcome Center, 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Oct. 1–March 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. April 1–Sept. 30: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.



Mansion house at the John Dickinson Plantation.

Ongoing

[“Letters From a Farmer in Pennsylvania.”](#) Online exhibit explores the life of Founding Father John Dickinson on the 250th anniversary of the publication of his essays that described Colonial American grievances with the British government.

Ongoing

[“New Castle: Three Forts, One Community.”](#) Exhibit examines the 17th-century struggle for control of New Castle by the Dutch, Swedes and English, and the strongholds that they built to maintain their power. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-323-4453.

Ongoing

[“The Old State House: A True Restoration 1976-2016.”](#) Display explores preservation work that has been conducted since Delaware’s first permanent capitol building in Dover was restored to its original appearance in 1976. From the collections of the State of Delaware. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Mon.–Sat., 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.



The Old State House

Ongoing

[“The Path to Freedom: A History of the Underground Railroad in Delaware.”](#) Display explores Delaware’s role in the clandestine network that transported American slaves to freedom including the true journey of the Hawkins family from bondage in Maryland, through Delaware, to freedom in Pennsylvania. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-323-4453.



Image from “The Path to Freedom: A History of the Underground Railroad in Delaware” on display at the New Castle Court House Museum.

Ongoing

[Sculpture by Charles Parks](#). Display of works by the noted Wilmington artist featuring historical and political figures including a Minute Man, and presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and George W. Bush. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-323-4453.

Ongoing

[“A Seaborne Citizenry: The DeBraak and Its Atlantic World.”](#) Exhibit utilizes artifacts recovered from His Majesty’s Sloop of War DeBraak, a British warship that sank off the Delaware coast on May 25, 1798, to tell the story of the vessel, its crew and the historical context within which it operated in the Atlantic World of the late 18th century. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. April 1–Oct. 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. Nov. 1–March 31: Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-645-1148.

Ongoing

“Simple Machines.” Exhibit demonstrating the six “simple machines”—incline ramp, screw, wedge, pulley, lever and wheel—that constitute the elementary building blocks of which many more-complicated machines are composed. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Oct. 1–March 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. April 1–Sept. 30: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Ongoing

“When Janie Comes Marching Home: Women’s Fight to Serve.” Display explores the participation of women in America’s armed conflicts from the Revolutionary War to the present, and their fight to be allowed to serve their country during wartime. [Legislative Hall](#), 411 Legislative Ave., Dover. Limited visitation hours; call 302-739-9194 before planning a visit.



Administered by the [Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs](#), the five museums of the State of Delaware—the John Dickinson Plantation, the Johnson Victrola Museum, the New Castle Court House Museum, The Old State House and the Zwaanendael Museum—tell the story of the First State’s contributions to the history and culture of the United States. Through tours, exhibits, school programs and hands-on activities, the museums shine a spotlight on Delaware’s unique history and the diverse people who came to live there. The museums are [accredited by the American Alliance of Museums](#). The New Castle Court House Museum and the John Dickinson Plantation are partner sites of the [First State National Historical Park](#). The Old State House is located on the Dover Green, another partner site of the park. Go to the following for a [comprehensive, long-term calendar of division-sponsored events](#).

The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs is an agency

of the State of Delaware. The division enhances Delaware's quality of life by preserving the state's unique historical heritage, fostering community stability and economic vitality and providing educational programs and assistance to the general public on Delaware history and heritage. The division's diverse array of services includes operation of five museums which are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, administration of the State Historic Preservation Office, conservation of the state's archaeological and historic-objects collections, operation of a conference center and management of historic properties across the state. Primary funding for division programs and services is provided by annual appropriations from the Delaware General Assembly and grants from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, a federal agency. However, the contents and opinions expressed in the division's programs and services do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Department of the Interior.



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